



**MA CHADASH!** **מה חדש!**

What's New! The newsletter of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn, Maine ק"ק היכל שלום

September 2019/Elul/Tishrei 5780



## Shabbat in the Woods

**Saturday, September 14th, 10 a.m.**  
**(Rain date, Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>)**

**Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary, Lewiston**

**Nature. Contemplation. Reflection.**  
**Song. Community. Shabbat.**

**Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water**



## FROM THE RABBI



I have recently returned from a wonderfully inspiring week teaching at a Jewish music workshop in Weimar, Germany. 25 musicians and singers, most from Germany, Holland and Switzerland (and most not Jewish) spent 6 hours a day for an entire week learning with me to play and sing Hasidic music. They were all so dedicated and eager to soak up every last detail of Hasidic life, culture and song. On the last day, I even challenged the participants to write their own Hasidic niggun (wordless melody) based on the characteristics

of the nigunim that we had been studying all week. The result was an incredibly beautiful, original niggun. That all this was taking place in the heart of Germany was both incredibly moving and surreal. 75 years ago, Weimar rounded up and deported all of its Jews—now Yiddish culture is thriving in that very same place.

What makes this even more surreal is that Weimar is located only about 5 miles from the Nazi concentration camp, Buchenwald. I managed to find a little time to visit, pay my respects and recite the Mourners' Kaddish. While there, I discovered the message embedded in the iron gates that the prisoners were greeted with as they entered the camp: "Jeddem Das Seine." It means each group belongs in its own place. Buchenwald, established in 1937, housed communists, Poles, the mentally ill and physically disabled, political prisoners, Romani (Gypsy) people, Freemasons, homosexuals and, of course, Jews. The camp motto proudly proclaimed its diabolical dual message— that the camp's prisoners were expected to associate only with their own kind and, also, that Germany was exclusively a place for "real Germans."

Two days later, I woke to the news of yet another mass shooting in the U.S., this one in El Paso, Texas. It was directed at Mexican immigrants by a shooter who made no secret of his affinity for the Nazi ideology so awfully articulated by the words "Jeddem Das Seine."

"Why do non-Jewish Germans want to immerse themselves in Jewish culture?" I am frequently asked. Why do they study Yiddish and Hebrew, Jewish music, art and dance, and fill to capacity theatres that feature Jewish cultural performances, night after night?

There can be no greater repudiation of Jeddem Das Seine than learning from, joining yourself to and celebrating another culture—especially one that was so intensely reviled only a couple of generations ago. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have participated in this amazing, even miraculous, laboratory of inter-cultural respect and cooperation.

May the spirit of Yiddish Summer Weimar radiate outwards to all of Germany, Europe and the entire world.

**Rabbi Sruli**

Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members of our Temple. Please call or text his cell phone at 914-980-9509 if you would like to speak with him or to arrange a time for a meeting. You can also call or leave a message at the Temple office and Rabbi Sruli will get back to you.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On a recent Friday night, Anne was out of town. I had dinner with a friend and his husband. After dinner, they invited me to go for drinks with his sister and her husband. We met up at a bar and later two other married couples (all men) joined us. So, if you are counting, six gay and three straight.

As we sat around having a couple of drinks, I noticed that everyone else in the bar seemed to be in male/female pairs. However, no one looked at our group. No one made comments. Quite frankly, no one cared whether we were straight or gay. Think about it. Just twenty years ago, would this have been the same situation? Would the six gay members of our group felt comfortable going out in public? Maybe no one would have commented, but we probably would have gotten a couple of looks.

My Uncle Seymour, may he rest in peace, died five years ago. In his eulogy, I mentioned that he could not be his true self for much of his life, he remained in the closet for fear of what others may say or think. Finally, in the last ten or so years of his life, he was able to be who he was and proudly announce it to the world. Our society was changing.

A number of years ago, when same sex marriage was coming up for a vote in Maine, I was driving and came to a stop behind a car with two bumper stickers. The first said G-d loves everyone. I like that bumper sticker. It shows acceptance of everyone and who they are. However, the second bumper sticker...and I thought these two bumper stickers would be mutually exclusive...was one opposed...yes, opposed...to same sex marriage. In my cynical mind, the message I thought the driver of that car was trying to convey was that 'G-d loves everyone...except the gays.'

The moment I read those two bumper stickers, I knew that driver was wrong. At the bar, when no one cared whether we were straight or gay, I know that society is coming to believe the first bumper sticker...G-d loves everyone. Period and without exception. This is true for sexual orientation, national origin and anything else that makes one person different from another.

I know there is a lot of hate going around the world and the country right now. However, fundamentally, the vast majority of people are good. The vast majority don't care if you are white or black, or green or purple, straight, gay or something in between. The vast majority of people don't care if you came from Poland, Russia, Africa, Mexico or Honduras. (Although there is reasonable discussion on coming here legally or whether certain immigrants should get benefits) Where you are from is not the issue and let's not forget that. G-d loves everyone. Period.

All peoples should be accepting of all others, but especially as Jews. We should always welcome people into our lives, synagogue, community and country with open arms. Diversity has made this country what it is and diversity will continue to make the American experiment continue to change, grow and improve through the generations.

Remember, the first bumper sticker. Open your hearts and minds to diversity. Our society is changing and for the better. G-d loves everyone. Period.

David Allen

# Special Brunch Program

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.



Featuring Guest Speaker  
**Fatuma Hussein,**

Founder, Immigrant Resource  
Center of Maine  
(formerly, United Somali Women of  
Maine)

Brunch will be catered by  
**The Men of Temple Shalom**

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

Please RSVP by Thursday, September 5th

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## Yahrzeiten

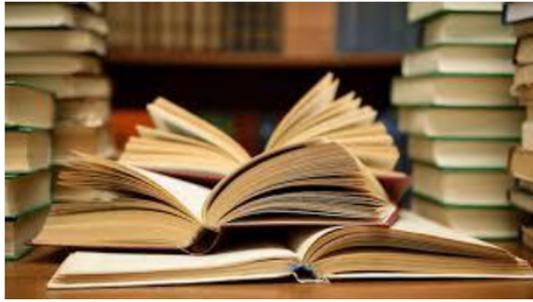
If you are observing a yahrzeit and are planning to come to Thursday morning minyan to say Kaddish, we urge you to contact **Bob Laskoff** ([ral@laskofflaw.com](mailto:ral@laskofflaw.com)) and let him know so that he can include that information in his weekly reminder email. It is your responsibility to call friends and neighbors to make sure there are enough people for the minyan.



## REMINDER:

The first Thursday of the month, the service will begin at 8:00 A.M. All other Thursday morning services will continue to begin at 7:00. All services will continue to have a service, discussion and breakfast.

# !!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!



We had a small, but talkative, group on August 11, consisting of Judy Abromson, Bonnie Faiman, Joel Olstein and me, Lesli Weiner. The book was *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* by Michael David Lukas. In researching the author, we found that he has written on both Jewish and Muslim topics. This led us to wonder if he, too, was the child of one Jewish parent and one Muslim, like his leading

character. We all enjoyed the 3 interwoven stories and the mystery behind the fragment of ancient parchment which brought Joseph to Cairo following his father's death. There was also the question of what happened to the Ezra Scroll. And Judy reminded us that the British widows, Agnes Lewis and Margaret Gibson, were also featured in another book we'd read, sequestering and preserving the contents of the geniza during the late 1800's. As any good historical fiction writer will do, Lukas interwove historical figures, places and events with his fictional characters and actions. Read this novel, search for the answers, follow the intrigue over the centuries, and you will end up feeling very satisfied.

Our next book is *The Wartime Sisters* by Lynda Cohen Loigman, recommended by me. Here is a short synopsis from Amazon:

**"For fans of *Lilac Girls*, the next powerful novel from the author of Goodreads Choice Awards semifinalist *The Two-Family House* about two sisters working in a WWII armory, each with a deep secret.**

Two estranged sisters, raised in Brooklyn and each burdened with her own shocking secret, are reunited at the Springfield Armory in the early days of WWII. While one sister lives in relative ease on the bucolic Armory campus as an officer's wife, the other arrives as a war widow and takes a position in the Armory factories as a "soldier of production." Resentment festers between the two, and secrets are shattered when a mysterious figure from the past reemerges in their lives."

I hope that wets your whistle enough to get you to our next meeting on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 at 4 PM. See you then.....lesli

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## TEMPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on  
Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm





# **Lunch and Learn Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Lunch at 12:00—Learn from 12:30 to 1:30**

**We will study interesting  
selections from the**

## **The High Holiday Prayer Book (Machzor)**

**Anne Allen has once again graciously offered her home,  
so we will meet at**

**1 Locksley Road, Auburn**

**Please RSVP to the Temple Office, 786-4201**



Just a friendly reminder

Temple Shalom

is a smoke-free facility.



**Erev Rosh Hashanah  
Sacred Music Concert and Service  
Sunday, September 29th, 7 p.m.**

We usher in the High Holiday season with a concert of Sacred Music to set the mood for the beautiful Erev Rosh Hashanah service. Following the service, we will wish each other a sweet New Year with the traditional apple and honey dipping. Rebbetzin Lisa is already infusing the honey from a special recipe she learned from the Jardin Botanique in Edmunston, New Brunswick which will be served alongside an assortment of Maine apples, home-baked honey cakes, including the Rebbetzin's signature Majestic and Moist Honey Cake!

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**Simchat Torah 2019**

**Friday, October 18th, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

**The Most Joyous Night of the Year**

*Pizza in the Sukkah!  
Celebrate with the Torahs!  
Seven Exciting Dances and Games!  
Live Music!  
All Ages!*

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

Sebastian Chervenak	Sept	4
Daniel Rausch		6
Michael Laskoff		7
Barbara Goodman		15
Chrissy Zidle		16
Elizabeth Baumhoff		17
Doretta Shapiro		19
Hilmar Jensen		20
Helene Perry		21
Adam Platz		23
Sarah Kutzen		24
Lewis Perry		25
Jackie Wilner		25
Joel Olstein		28
Jessica Jensen		30
Rachel Jensen		30
Erica Schair		30

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**

Carla Marcus & Lawrence Mohr	Sept	1
Cathy & Stan Tetenman		3
Anne & David Allen		9
John & Linda Isaacson		13
Hilmar & Phyllis Graber Jensen		17
Susan & David Teich		19
Carmen Comeau & Stuart Cohen		20
Scott & Jennifer Kaplan		27

## **YAHRZEITEN**

Martha Bodenheimer	Sept.	4
Minnette Lezberg		4
Irving Kraunz		6
Pearl Brody		8
Charles Traister		10
Dorothy Miller		12
George Harris		15
Verrill Scott		15
Matilda Kraunz		16
Ann Frankel		18
Arthur Salberg		18
Hyman Rubenstein		19
David Krasner		19
Heléne Beth Krasner		23
Rebecca Cohen Schaffer		25
David Feldman		28
Charles Schneidman		28
Alfred Pennamacoor		29
Saul Schneidman		30

Ma Chadash/What's New is published monthly by Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center. Temple Shalom is an independent congregation and a member of the Lewiston-Auburn Jewish Federation.

The mission of Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center is to foster a strong Jewish identity and an active Jewish Community.

Rabbi Sruli Dresdner

Office Manager Julie Waite

Programming/Social Action Phyllis Graber Jensen  
Paula Marcus-Platz  
Preschool Allyson Casares

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday - Friday

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#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Budget/Finance/Endowment Stan Tetenman  
Cemetery Henry Meyer  
Hebrew School/Education Allyson Casares

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belanger, Phil Bray, Gary Buckman, Elcha Buckman, John Calloway, June Wilner Chason, Bob Fineman, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Anne Geller, Detlef Gerlach, Elinor Goldblatt, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Henry Lefkowitz, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Maude Olsen, Joel Salberg, Sara Tedlow, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner,** and all others who are not well at this time.



*Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery.*

*We like to hear good news! Whenever you request that a name be put on this list, please let Temple Shalom know when it can be removed.*

# MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

## The Yiddish Culture Festival

*A Special MJFF Cultural Event*

*Saturday, November 2nd and Sunday, November 3rd*

**Saturday at 7:30 PM – A Klezmer Music Concert at One Longfellow Square featuring Hankus Netsky (of the Klezmer Conservatory Band) with Eden MacAdam-Somer and ensemble. Maine’s own Casco Bay Tumblers open.**

**Sunday at 10:30 AM – Novelist, lecturer, performer Michael Wex, author of *Born to Kvetch*, *Just Say Nu*, *How to Be a Mentsh (& not a schmuck)* among others.**

**Sunday at Noon – Family program featuring music and story-telling with Rabbi Sruli Dresdner and Lisa Mayer.**

**Sunday at 2 PM – A lecture and dance party featuring Hankus Netsky and Eden MacAdam-Somer**

**Sunday at 4 PM – A film and reception featuring *Chewdaism, A Culinary Tour of Jewish Montreal* and food by Rose Foods.**

**For more information, [www.MJFF.org](http://www.MJFF.org)**

**TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Seymour Tetenman

In memory of Ezra Lape Isaacson

To Marcia & Manny Plavin in honor of the  
birth of a great granddaughter

Marianne Miller

In memory of Lester Miller

Mitchell Ross

In memory of Muriel Ross

Gladys Koss

In memory of Jessie Pributsky

In memory of Charles Pributsky

Harriet & Steve Passerman

In memory of Eve Shapiro

In memory of Miriam Passerman

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Ezra Lape Isaacson

Christine Holden

In memory of Marilyn Simonds

James & Susan Lifter

In honor of their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Scott Eicher

In appreciation

Sheri & Joel Olstein

In memory of Ezra Lape Isaacson

Anne & David Allen

In memory of Ezra Lape Isaacson

Ellen & Aaron Burke

Speedy recovery to Elcha Buckman

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

Speedy recovery to Elcha Buckman

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Speedy recovery to Elcha Buckman

## YOM HOO-LEDET SA-ME-AKH, CHAI

Bertha Bodenheimer

To David Allen in honor of his birthday

## PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND

Roz & Barry Kutzen

In memory of Nathan Kutzen

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judy Amsel

In appreciation

Melissa Johnson

In memory of Jennifer Lee Levine

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

Speedy recovery to Babs Shapiro

Marcia & Manny Plavin

In honor of the birth of great granddaughter,  
Claire Divora Plavin

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND  
BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND  
BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND  
CEMETERY FUND  
COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND  
EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND  
FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND  
INVESTMENT FUND  
KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND  
LIBRARY FUND  
MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND  
MINYANAIRE FUND  
MITZVAH FUND  
NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND  
RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND  
SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND



# Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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DATED MATERIAL  
SEPTEMBER 2019

## SEPTEMBER AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Monday, 9/2		Office/Preschool Closed for Labor Day
Thursday, 9/5	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast (Please note later time)
Saturday, 9/7	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 9/8	10:00 am	Brunch program with guest Fatuma Hussein – RSVP!
Monday, 9/9	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	4:00 pm	Book Group Meets
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, 9/12	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 9/14	10:00 am	Shabbat in the Woods, Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary, Lewiston
Monday, 9/16	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, 9/19	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 9/21	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 9/23	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Tuesday, 9/24	Noon	Lunch & Learn at the Allen Home – RSVP!
Thursday, 9/26	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 9/28	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 9/29	7:00 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Sacred Music Concert, Service
Monday, 9/30	9:00 am	Office Closed, Rosh Hashanah 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Service
Tuesday, 10/1	9:00 am	Office Closed, Rosh Hashanah 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day Service

